

# NCLB Making a Difference in Massachusetts



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Massachusetts to more than \$2.7 billion – 43% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$231.4 million – \$45.6 million over 2001 levels – to help Massachusetts' neediest children.
- Massachusetts has received \$47.6 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$15.3 million for Massachusetts. In total, over six years, Massachusetts is set to receive approximately \$100 million in Reading First funds.
- "More Bay State high-schoolers than ever plan to attend a four-year college. Fifty-six percent of graduates from the Class of 2003 said they are headed to a four-year school." (*Boston Herald*, 5/27/04)
- "Thousands of Springfield Public School students will benefit from a summer reading program under the *No Child Left Behind Act*," announced U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. The program is designed to encourage students in grades K-8 to read during the summer months and help prevent fall-off in reading skills during the vacation. Students who read 10 books over the summer will receive a variety of prizes, including free books and a Summer Reading Achievers certificate. Springfield Superintendent Joseph Burke said, "With the help of programs like Summer Reading Achievers, we are building a culture of achievement in every school and classroom in Springfield." (U.S. Department of Education Press Release, 4/13/04)
- "About 96 percent of this year's high school seniors passed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test required for graduation. Also, blacks and Latinos, who on average have traditionally scored lower on MCAS, are catching up to their white and Asian peers after five tests. For example, 88 percent of black seniors and 85 percent of Latinos passed, compared with 98 percent of white students and 95 percent of Asian students. In the first round of testing more than two years ago, just 35 percent of Latinos and 39 percent of blacks passed, while 79 percent of whites and 75 percent of Asians did." (*Boston Globe*, 6/8/04)